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SOMETHING TO CHEER FOR THE GUNNERS AT LAST

Arsenal beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final late on Saturday, in front of nearly 90,000 empty seats at Wembley Stadium

AUBAMEYANG HERO, ARTETA KINGMAKER

Gabon international Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang was hero of the night. The striker converted a penalty in the first half to help Arsenal recover from an early setback. He then scored the winner in the 67th minute. A lot of credit goes to Mikel Arteta, who took over as manager eight months ago and transformed a struggling side into perfomers on the big stage.

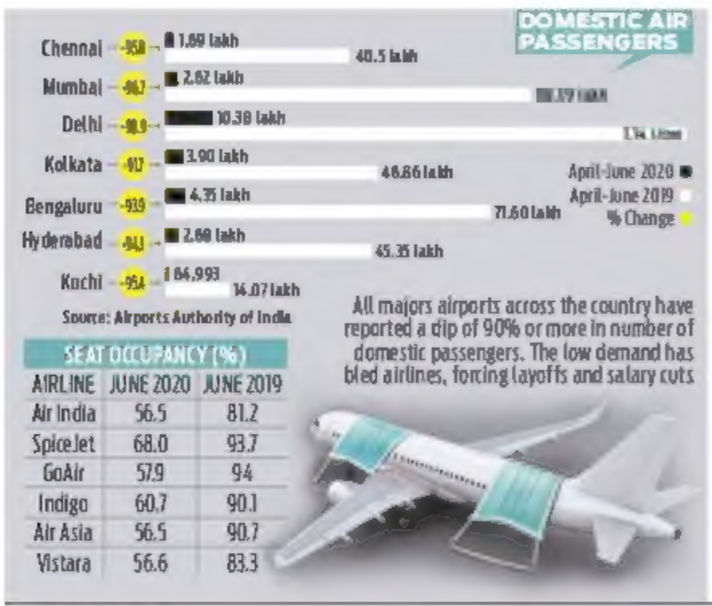
HOPING FOR GOOD DAYS TO RETURN

- This is a big boost for Arsenal, who are on the road to recovery after being unimpressive for a few years. Arteta became the first person from Arsenal to win FA Cup as captain and manager.
- Arsenal qualified for next season's Europa League by winning the title, despite not finishning in the top 7 in the Premier League.

14

THIS WAS ARSENAL'S 14TH FA CUP WIN, THE MOST FOR ANY TEAM

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VIJAYAPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI



SEAT OCCUPANCY (%)

AIRLINE	JUNE 2020	JUNE 2019
Air India	56.5	81.2
SpiceJet	68.0	93.7
GoAir	57.9	94
Indigo	60.7	90.1
Air Asia	56.5	90.7
Vistara	56.6	83.3

India's airlines gasping for breath

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

THE Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, the busiest in the country, operated only 9,335 domestic flights in June this year as against 27,985 flights in the same month last year, a drop of nearly 67%.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai, the second busiest, operated a mere 2,594 domestic flights this June as against 19,682 in the same month in 2019—a drop of 87%.

These telling numbers are not restricted only to the two biggest airports in the country.

Official data accessed by this newspaper shows that Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown have played havoc with the aviation sector, resulting in a sharp fall in the number of flights operated and the number of fliers from airports across the country.

Consider the number of domestic flights in June 2019 and 2020 from some of the other prominent airports.

Chennai airport saw a drop of more than 80%, Bengaluru 74%, Hyderabad 71% and Kolkata 61% in flight operations.

The numbers are more grim if April-June 2019 and the same period this year are compared. Most airports show a drop of more than 80% **(see graphic)**.

The same steep decline in June 2019 and 2020 is seen in the number of domestic passengers handled at all the airports in the country.

In June 2019, the Delhi airport handled more than 40 lakh domestic fliers, but in the same month this year, it came down to 8.82 lakh, a fall of 78%.

The story is the same across all airports. Among the major airports that saw a drop of more than 90% are Mumbai, Goa and Mangalore.

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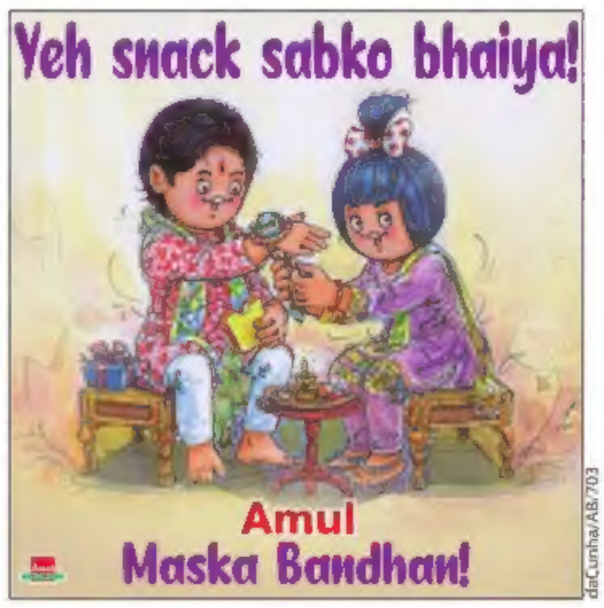


GOLD SMUGGLING

NIA arrests 6 more persons including a PFI member

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Thiruvananthapuram

IN a new twist to Kerala's gold smuggling case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested six more persons, including a Popular Front of India (PFI) member who was chargesheeted in the sensational palm-chopping case.

Of the six, four were already arrested by the Customs. Muhammad Ali Ebrahim and Muhammad Ali are the other two. They were picked up by the NIA officers from Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. With this, NIA has so far arrested 10 persons in the gold smuggling case.

Muhammed Ali was chargesheeted in the case of palm chopping of a college professor in Thodupuzha in 2011, but was later acquitted.

Ali is still a PFI member, sources said. His arrest brings the PFI angle into the case. The arrest of Ali, who was an accused in a sensational case involving radical outfits, could provide a leeway to the probe agencies which suspect that the proceedings from gold smuggling were used for terror funding, sources said.

The NIA said Muhammad Ali Ebrahim and Muhammad Ali had assisted A M Jalal, another accused who was earlier arrested by the Customs, in collecting the smuggled gold from key conspirator K T Rameez. The two also assisted Jalal in distributing the booty among other conspirators, a statement from the NIA said.

Meanwhile, the NIA has recorded the arrest of Jalal, Said Alavi E, Mohammed Shafi and Abdu P T, who were in judicial custody after the Customs arrested them in the gold case.

WITH THIS ISSUE

THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex

32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

India tells China to deliver complete disengagement

Chinese troops yet to retreat from Finger 4 and PP17A, say sources

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

REJECTING China's claim that disengagement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) was more or less over, India on Sunday demanded complete disengagement of troops from Finger 4 and Patrolling Point 17A and other stand-off points.

According to sources, India hardened its stance during the fifth round of talks between Corps Commanders of the two countries held in Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC on Sunday, in a bid to thwart China's salami-slicing tactics.

"Talks are being held and complete disengagement of troops from the remaining standoff points will be the main agenda," sources told *TNIE* on Sunday evening, when the talks were still on.

Finger 4 on the northern flank of Pangong Lake and Patrolling Point 17A (Gogra) are the places where China has not fulfilled the commitments of disengagement as decided in previous meetings.

Disengagement at PP14 (Galwan Valley) and PP15 was completed and verification done in the beginning of July.

Sources said Chinese troops left the heights at Finger 4 but remained deployed on the ridges in the vicinity. Also, the disengagement is pending at PP17A.

"Our stance is status quo ante before Chinese troops moved forward in the first week of May" source added.

Indian XIV Corps Commander Lt Gen Harinder Singh and Maj Gen Lin Liu, Commander of the South Xinjian Military District have been representing their respective sides. Earlier meetings were held on June 6, June 22, June 30 and July 14.

The Chinese troops had clashed with the Indian troops on the intervening night of May 5 and 6 and subsequently moved their troops forward.

Later, the artillery and armoured assets were moved. Thereafter, both sides deployed fighters in forward areas.

India has done precautionary deployment all along the 3,488-km LAC, de facto border between India and China.

China had on July 25 said disengagement was complete in Galwan, Hot Springs and Gogra but was silent on Pangong Tso. In response, India said there has been some progress but disengagement is not yet over.

> **Talks are being held and complete disengagement of troops from the remaining standoff points will be the main agenda**
> —A source

Amit Shah tests positive for Covid-19, hospitalised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah tested positive for Covid-19 and was admitted to a hospital in Gurugram on Sunday.

"On getting the initial symptoms of corona, I got the test done and the report came back positive. My health is fine, but I am being admitted to the hospital on the advice of doctors," Shah tweeted.

The minister requested all those who came in contact with him in the last few days to self-isolate.

The 55-year-old was admitted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram. He has co-morbidities, and thus, is more vulnerable to the disease, sources said.

A team of AIIMS doctors, led by the institution's director Dr Randeep Guleria, is expected to visit Medanta Hospital to oversee Shah's treatment, sources said.

The Home Minister was expected to join Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several prominent personalities for the 'Bhoomi Pujan' ceremony at the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.

Shah reportedly attended the Cabinet meeting at the PM's official residence on July 29, during which the new National Education Policy was unveiled. All Covid-19 protocols, including social distancing and wearing of masks were adhered to. Sources, however, said it's not clear if Shah met Modi and others in person or through video conferencing.

BSY TOO CATCHES THE VIRUS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister **B S Yediyurappa** announced on Sunday night that he has tested positive for Covid-19. In a tweet, the 78-year-old BJP veteran said he was healthy, but has been advised hospitalisation. Incidentally, the announcement came hours after Union Home Minister Amit Shah tweeted about testing positive for coronavirus. Yediyurappa will undergo treatment at Manipal Hospital on Old Airport Road.

"I have tested positive for coronavirus. Whilst I am fine, I am being hospitalised as a precaution on the recommendation of doctors. I request those who have come in contact with me recently to be observant and exercise self quarantine (sic)", Yediyurappa tweeted on Sunday evening.

CONTINUED ON: P5

LOOK WHO'S UNMASKED!

Clockwise from top: State Congress chief D K Shivakumar was spotted without a mask when he called on former MLA Vijaykumar Shetty in Mangaluru on Saturday. Mysuru MLA A Ramdas had his mask strung under his chin while addressing a press conference on Sunday. They were not the only ones. A bunch of youngsters chose to throw caution to the winds as they posed for photographs in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Sunday. Newly nominated MLCs CP Yogeshwar and H Vishwanath too were seen without face masks when they took oath on Thursday last | **EXPRESS**

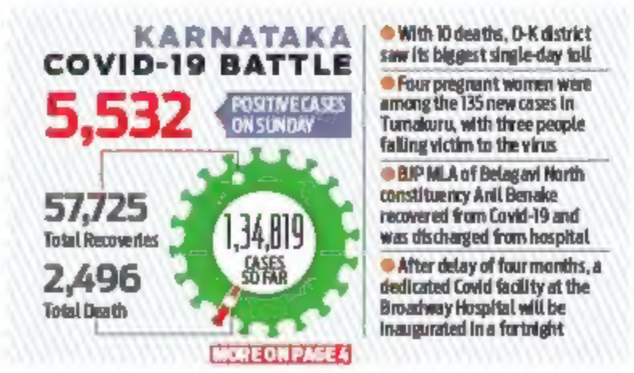
STATE'S RECOVERY RATE UP, BUT ACTIVE CASES A WORRY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA on Sunday recorded its highest-ever Covid-19 discharges for a single day at 4,077, improving its recovery rate to 42.81% from 41.49 per cent overnight. Across the state, a total of 57,725 patients have been discharged so far.

Another bright spot is the mortality rate, which has consistently been dipping over the past few days, albeit gradually. The state's mortality rate now stands at 1.85%, which is below the national mortality rate of 2.11%.

However, the state's main worry lies in the spiralling number of cases that are currently under treatment — also known as active cases — which has shot up to 74,950 from 73,219 on Saturday, with the day's addition of 1,371 to the tally.


KARNATAKA
COVID-19 BATTLE
5,532
POSITIVE CASES ON SUNDAY
57,725
Total Recoveries
2,496
Total Death
1,34,819
CASES SO FAR
MORE ON PAGE 4
With 10 deaths, D-K district saw its biggest single-day toll
Four pregnant women were among the 135 new cases in Tumakuru, with three people falling victim to the virus
BJP MLA of Belagavi North constituency Anil Benake recovered from Covid-19 and was discharged from hospital
After delay of four months, a dedicated Covid facility at the Broadway Hospital will be inaugurated in a fortnight

Lately, Karnataka has started improving its score on the recovery front. After adding over 3,000 discharges per day for three days between July 30 and August 1, which was much lower in the days prior to that, the state saw a refreshing 4,000-plus patients discharged on Sunday.

The state's recovery rate had faltered since the beginning of July, when it was 41.94% and fell to the month's lowest at 35.29% on July 20. But after that, there has been consistent improvement till Sunday (42.81%).

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

RBI's monetary policy panel to meet next week

Mumbai: The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee will meet next week to decide on the policy stance amid the urgency to revive the Covid-hit economy and demand for one-time loan restructuring.

MHA seeks more time to frame CAA rules

New Delhi: The Home Ministry has sought an additional three months' time for framing rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), officials said on Sunday.

Relaxations for travellers

New Delhi: Health ministry on Sunday issued new guidelines for international travellers. Those arriving may now be exempted from mandatory quarantine if they submit a negative RT-PCR report on arrival.

61 VILLAGES

In UP flooded after Nepal releases water

This has affected over 1.50 lakh people and damaged 171 houses, in Bahraich district. One motorboat, 179 boats, one platoon of flood PAC and NDRF have also been pressed into service, an official said on Sunday.

Jarkiholi's Delhi visit sets off buzz ahead of cabinet rejig

ANUSHA RAVI @ Bengaluru

AMID the buzz of an impending cabinet rejig in mid-August, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi landed in New Delhi on Sunday. Jarkiholi's visit comes close on the heels of Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi's trip to the national capital to meet the BJP central leadership.

During this two-day stay in New Delhi, sources close to Jarkiholi suggest that the minister hopes to present his case to replace Laxman Savadi as Deputy Chief Minister and lobby for H Vishwanath, M T B Nagaraj and R Shankar to be inducted into the cabinet. Jarkiholi is making a representation for his compatriots before Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa officially seeks an appointment with the BJP top brass to discuss the cabinet expansion and rejig.

The first move by Ramesh Jarkiholi to lobby for a Deputy CM post was when he met Union Minister Pralhad Joshi earlier in July.

While his tour plan suggests a series of meetings with Union Ministers Pralhad Joshi, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Suresh Angadi and officials of Forest, Railways and Water Resources departments, Jarkiholi is set to meet BJP national president J P Nadda too.

Jarkiholi's hopes of meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, however, now seem impossible.

"He is scheduled to meet JP Nadda on Tuesday. He was called to New Delhi by the party's central leadership for a bigger role," said a source close to the minister.

CONTINUED ON: P5